



DCAF
a centre for security,
development and
the rule of law

OSCE Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

NEWS RELEASE

Geneva, 24 April 2015

Conference on “Ukraine’s Current Security, Humanitarian Demining and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Challenges”

Maison de la Paix, Geneva

28-29 April 2015

An expert conference dedicated to Ukraine’s security and mine action challenges takes place in Geneva on 28th – 29th April. The event is organised by GICHD, DCAF and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

The objectives of the conference are to design recommendations and a roadmap for developing national mine action institutions in the country. To this end, experts and representatives from ministries, state agencies, armed forces, parliament and civil society have been invited to discuss long-standing questions related to security, humanitarian demining and ERW as well as new challenges in terms of landmines, cluster munitions and ammunition depots stemming from the current crisis.

According to the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, over 75,000 ammunition and explosive devices currently await clearance and neutralization as a result of recent hostilities. As highlighted by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mr Arseniy Yatseniuk, on 21st April 2015 at a meeting of the State Commission for Emergency Situations in Kiev: “...It is a common responsibility to help Ukraine to overcome this humanitarian catastrophe that menaces people’s lives”. (Interfax-Ukraine, 21 April 2015)

The conference is taking place in the context of a long-term engagement in infrastructure and capacity development in Ukraine. DCAF has worked in Ukraine for more than a decade on a wide variety of security governance issues with multiple stakeholders. Since 2011, the GICHD has been providing support in all aspects of mine action activities, including survey and clearance, stockpile destruction, information management, ammunition safety management and disposal of underwater explosive devices. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine was established in 1999 to plan, implement and monitor projects to enhance the country’s security and develop legislation, institutions and practices that are in line with democratic standards. Since 2006, it has been helping to enhance country’s capabilities for dealing with explosive hazards by providing equipment and training to emergency service personnel, campaigning to inform civilians, especially children, of risks related to explosive weapons.

For further details, please contact:

Pascal RAPILLARD, Head External Relations and Policy, GICHD; email: p.rapillard@gichd.org;
phone: +41 (0)22 730 93 31; website: <http://www.gichd.org/>

Eden COLE, Head NIS Programmes, DCAF; email: e.cole@dcaf.ch; phone: +41 (0)22 730 94 05; website: <http://www.dcaf.ch/>

Andrii DZIUBENKO, National Programme Co-ordinator, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine; email: andrii.dziubenko@osce.org; website: <http://www.osce.org/ukraine>